

a network communications layer for communicating with the plurality of devices via the wide area network and the client application;

an information processing layer for communicating with the network communications layer, the information processing layer having a set of objects corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the information processing layer also being for interacting with a data access layer on behalf of each of the plurality of devices using the corresponding objects, interaction between the information processing layer and the data access layer on behalf of all of the plurality of devices being governed by a single set of rules;

the data access layer for facilitating access by the objects associated with the information processing layer to at least one database; and

a property monitoring system coupled to the information processing layer, the property monitoring system generating a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 24 have been amended to cover embodiments of the invention of commercial interest. The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any fee overpayment relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 21, 2001
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (AMENDED) An interface controller for managing operation of a plurality of devices at two or more properties
5 via a wide area network, each of the devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communication protocol associated therewith, the interface controller comprising:

10 a network communications layer for communicating with the plurality of devices via the wide area network and a client application associated with the plurality of devices; [and]

15 an information processing layer for communicating with the network communications layer, the information processing layer having a set of objects corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the information processing layer also being for interacting with a data access layer on behalf of each of the plurality of devices using the corresponding objects, interaction between the information processing layer and the data access layer on behalf of each of the plurality of devices
20 using the corresponding objects, interaction between the information processing layer and the data access layer on behalf of all of the plurality of devices being governed by a single set of rules; and

25 a property monitoring system coupled to the information processing layer, the property monitoring system generating a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.

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17. (AMENDED) A client system for enabling management of the operation of a plurality of associated devices at two or more properties by a remote interface controller via a wide area network, each of the plurality of devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communications protocol associated therewith, the client system comprising a client application for communicating with each of the plurality of devices and the interface controller via the wide area network, the client application also being for enabling the interface controller to interact with at least one database on behalf of all of the plurality of devices according to a single set of rules, the client application also for interfacing with a property monitoring system that can generate a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.

22. (AMENDED) An information provider system for communicating with an interface controller via a wide area network, the interface controller being for managing operation of a plurality of devices at two or more properties via the wide area network, each of the devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communications protocol associated therewith, the information provider system comprising a data access layer and at least one database, the data access layer being configured to facilitate interaction by the interface controller with the at least one database on behalf of all of the plurality of devices according to a single set of rules, the data access layer also being configured to facilitate interaction by the interface controller with a property monitoring system that can generate a display that can

include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.

24. (AMENDED) A system for managing operation of a
5 plurality of devices at two or more properties via a wide area
network, each of the devices belonging to one or more of a
plurality of classes and having a unique communication protocol
associated therewith, the system comprising:

10 a client application for communicating with each of the
plurality of devices;

a network communications layer for communicating with the
plurality of devices via the wide area network and the client
application;

15 an information processing layer for communicating with the
network communications layer, the information processing layer
having a set of objects corresponding to each of the plurality
of devices, the information processing layer also being for
interacting with a data access layer on behalf of each of the
plurality of devices using the corresponding objects,
20 interaction between the information processing layer and the
data access layer on behalf of all of the plurality of devices
being governed by a single set of rules; [and]

the data access layer for facilitating access by the
objects associated with the information processing layer to at
25 least one database; and

a property monitoring system coupled to the information
processing layer, the property monitoring system generating a
display that can include a user-selectable combination of
device class and property.